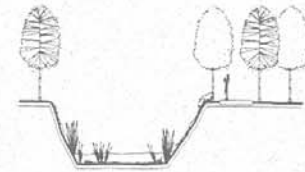

MILPITAS TRAILS
MASTER PLAN



**TRAIL
IMPLEMENTATION**

TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION

MILPITAS TRAILS PLAN TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

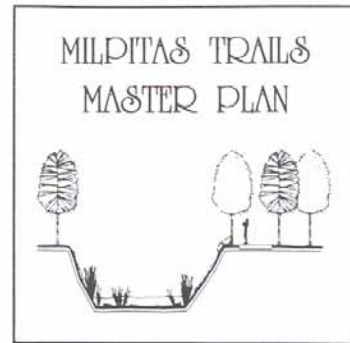
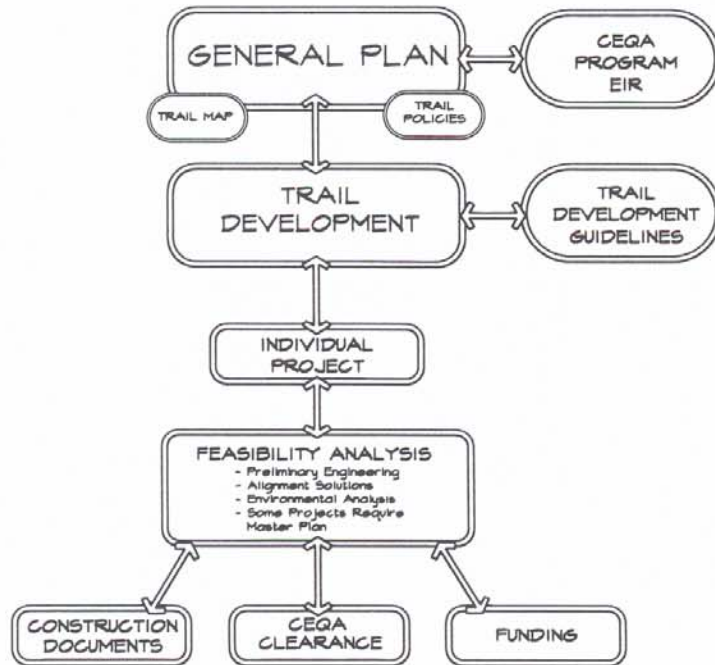


Figure 10 - Trail Implementation Flow Chart

The City of Milpitas must complete several additional steps to realize the vision of the Trails Task Force and to ensure implementation of the trail system. The steps required to build the trail system are outlined in the Trail Implementation Flow Chart (See Figure 10). The City must prepare policies and strategies for inclusion in the Circulation Element of the General Plan that support the Trails Master Plan. Environmental Clearance of the revised Circulation Element must be secured. A Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will provide a broad review of the Trails Master Plan. Individual trail construction projects will likely need additional review under CEQA.



TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION

Milpitas may elect to develop trail design guidelines for both construction and/or management of the trail system or a specific trail corridor. These guidelines could direct the scope and character of development. Finally, the City must undertake development of the trails as opportunities and funds arise. Individual project development will require detailed feasibility and preliminary engineering studies, development of construction budget estimates, project level environmental clearance and project funding prior to completing construction documents.

The location of the trail corridors, situated directly adjacent to infrastructure improvements and utility corridors, and the environmental issues associated with the limited remaining riparian habitat make trail development a complex and lengthy process. However, the results are trail facilities that are welcomed recreational amenities and necessary alternative transportation routes that will be eagerly put to use by the residents of Milpitas.

General Plan Policies

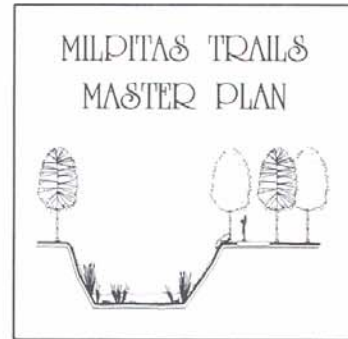
General Plan Policies and strategies for trail implementation must be prepared and included in the General Plan. This step toward trail implementation is being undertaken by City staff during the revision of the Circulation Element of the General Plan. Inclusion of these policies and strategies will help Milpitas realize the long-term vision of completing the trail system. In the more immediate future, the inclusion of the Trails Master Plan Map and associated policies and strategies will assist Milpitas in securing external grant funds for the development of individual trail projects.

The multi-disciplinary nature of trail projects and the diverse benefits gained from trails has encouraged many municipalities to also add policies and strategies to the recreation and conservation areas of their general plans. The City of Milpitas may wish to include trail related policies and strategies in the next revision of the Open Space & Environmental Conservation Element of the General Plan. This will further assist in developing the trail system and in meeting the park and recreation needs identified in the *Parks and Recreation Facility Needs Study* (The Planning Collaborative, 1992).

TRAIL IMPLEMENTATION

CEQA Clearance

Environmental clearance under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) must be obtained for the General Plan. This process is being undertaken by City staff during the revision of the Circulation Element of the General Plan. The City will be preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Circulation Element. This environmental document should provide a broad review of the environmental impacts and include programmatic mitigation measures for the Trails Master Plan. Individual trail projects will likely need additional review under CEQA at the time of development. This project level of review can be tiered to the EIR prepared for the Circulation Element. As a result, an initial study culminating in a mitigated negative declaration will likely suffice for most individual trail projects. Timely environmental clearance will assist Milpitas in securing external grant funding.



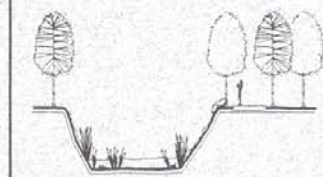
Design Guidelines

Trail guidelines could be developed to provide general recommendations for the implementation of trails. Guidelines could be developed for the entire Trails Master Plan or for a specific trail corridor. Guidelines direct the scope and character of trail development. All City departments, as well as, consultants designing private development projects adjacent to the trail corridors would use these guidelines.

Project Development

The final step in development of the trail system is project development. Trail development opportunities may arise in connection with an adjacent private development or may be sponsored directly by the City. In either instance, trail projects typically require detailed feasibility and preliminary engineering studies, development of construction budget estimates, project level environmental clearance and project funding.

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